United Nations ST/IC/2006/7

Secretariat

23 January 2006

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 3 February 2006: "Indigenous Art" stamp series and 2006 New York and Geneva definitive stamps**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Friday, 3 February 2006, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will continue its stamp series on the theme "Indigenous Art". This year, the stamp designs highlight musical instruments from Africa. Eighteen commemorative stamps in a mini-sheet format will be issued on this theme.

2. The stamp series originated from the "Voices" exhibition that was prepared for the first Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York in May 2002. In collaboration with several working artisans and musicians, the "Voices" exhibition highlighted basic issues of indigenous rights, with the primary focus being the preservation of culture. Issues addressed in the exhibition were the right to preserve and maintain ceremonies and traditions, the right to protect intellectual property, the right to protect lands and the environment and the right to maintain spiritual ceremonies and sites.

3. The stamps will be issued in denominations of $0.37, F.s. 1,20 and €0,55 (United States equivalents: F.s. 1,20: $0.92 and €0,55: $0.65, subject to exchange rate fluctuation).

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 13 February 2006.

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2006 definitives stamps

4. On 3 February 2006, UNPA will issue a New York definitive stamp in the denomination of $0.25 to meet current and make-up postage rates. The stamp design features flags in a heart shape held by a pair of embracing hands.

5. In addition, UNPA will issue a new Geneva hologram definitive stamp in the denomination of F.s. 1.30. The stamp depicts the Armillary Sphere ("Cycle of Life") by Paul Manship, located at the United Nations Office at Geneva. UNPA released a $0.70 hologram definitive in 2003 and a €0.75 hologram definitive in 2005, making this the third holographic stamp of the series.

(United States equivalent: F.s. 1.30: $0.99, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

General information

6. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 3 February, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) The temporary sales counter on the east side of the Secretariat Lobby between the cafeteria and the news-stand in front of the windows from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

7. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.